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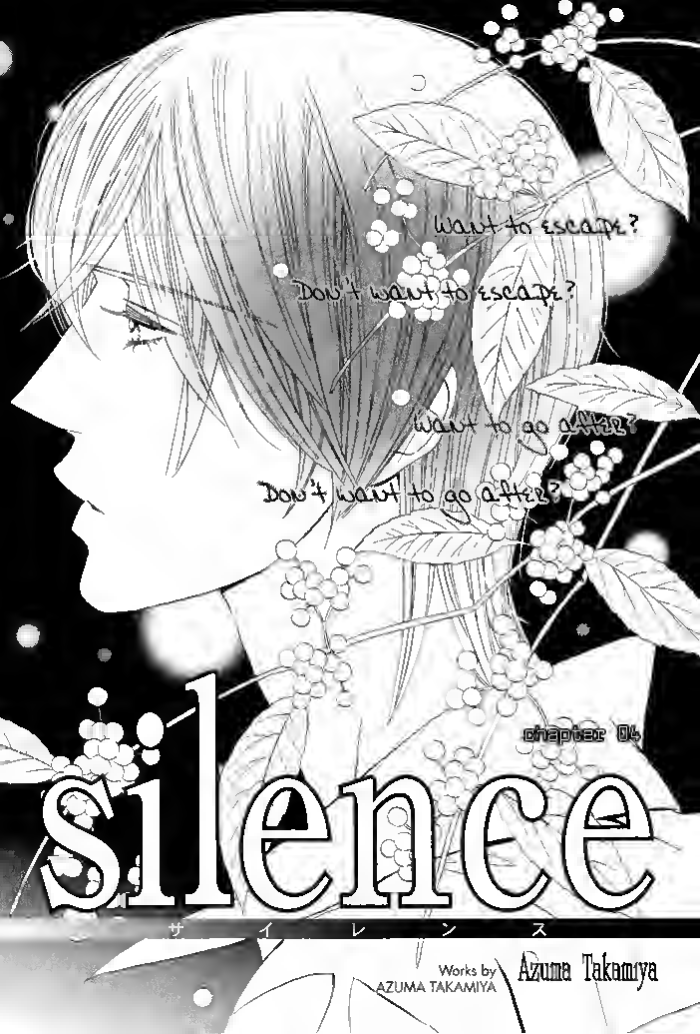
Want to escape?
Don't want to escape?
Want to go after?
Don't want to go after?
chapter 04
silence
サイレンス
Works by
AZUMA TAKAMIYA
Azuma Takamiya

The first time we talked was about 2 months after attending university.
"OH, EXCUSE ME."
MOOK
hmm

"the person I see in class who is in 1st year like me."
I only know him as
"YES?"
"DO YOU KNOW ISHIDA? HE HAS BROWN HAIR AND IS SHORT."
"HE PROBABLY WENT HOME ALREADY. HE LEFT RIGHT AFTER CLASS."
collapse
"THAT GUY~~"
well
"HOW ABOUT CALLING HIS CELL?"
"I COULDN'T GET THROUGH SINCE MORNING."

"YEAH"
"ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE REPORT DUE FOR KOTANI'S CLASS ON MONDAY?"
"HOW AM I GOING TO DO MY REPORT"
"HE PROMISED HE WOULD LEND ME THE NOTES FOR THE DAYS I MISSED"
"THEN DO YOU WANT TO SEE MINE?"
"EH?"
"AND THOSE COULD ONLY BE TAKEN FROM LECTURE"

This story is about Kaoru's friend, Masato, who seems to be sharing after Kaoru by ... ing out with the girls Kaoru is interested in, and then breaking ... with them. One day, after getting ... amped by a girl, Masato visited Kaoru's apartment and forcefully embraced him with the request of "comfort me." Since then, they have been having a relationship without expressing their feelings. One day, Masato, who thought Kaoru was asleep, kissed Kaoru tenderly before he left!

"MY HOME IS REALLY CLOSE BY"
"IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON THE NOTES I CAN EXPLAIN THEM TO YOU"
"UWAH, WHAT IS THIS?"
"SO TIDY"
"KOTANI'S BLACKBOARD IS NOT LIKE THIS"
"YEA, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO READ"
"AND I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT EITHER"
"YUP"
ring
ring

"AH EX-CUSE ME"
"NOW? I'M AT HOME BUT SOMEONE IS HERE"
Press
"YES"
"NO, IT'S A GUY I'M LENDING HIM MY NOTES
YEAH."
Press
"I'LL SEE YOU IN SCHOOL"
"GIRL-FRIEND?"
"YEAH, KINDA"

I think
they are probably not doing well
"WE WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL
FOR THREE YEARS."
"CAN I COPY THEM HERE?"
"YOU'RE NOT MAKING PHOTO COPIES?"
"IT STICKS TO MY HEAD BETTER IF I WRITE THEM."
"BESIDES I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOUR HELP ON OTHER PARTS I DON'T UNDERSTAND TOO."

Seeing him smile again...
"OTHER PARTS TOO?"
"MAYBE I SHOULD ASK FOR A TEACHING FEE THEN."
I'm a little relieved.
"WORKAHOLIC?"
"SURE. SINCE I'M A WORKAHOLIC, SO I HAVE SOME MONEY."
"HMM, WHAT DO YOU DO?"
"LIKE MIDNIGHT STAND."
"WELL, MY PARENT'S MOTTO IS LEARN, WORK AND PLAY."
And then,
ouch

naturally, we started hanging out.
"STOP BULLYING HIM ALREADY "
"YOU FORGOT THE PROMISE AND YOUR CELL? ARE YOU STUPID?"
ouch ouch
"SO YOU SAW IT?"
"SHE SAID SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE "
"THOUGH I ACTUALLY KINDA FIGURED IT OUT "

"OH, THE STORES ARE NOT OPEN YET"
"THEN LET'S BUY SOME AND DRINK AT YOUR PLACE"
"DRINK? IT'S STILL EARLY"
"OK!"
Grab
"LET'S GO DRINK!"
"IT WILL BE ON ME"
OH RIGHT, AS THE TEACHING FEE YOU MENTIONED BEFORE"
"I WAS JUST KIDDING."

"YOU ARE MORE CONSCIENTIOUS THAN YOU LOOK."
"THAN YOU LOOK' IS NOT NEEDED."
"WE'RE GOING TO DRINK UNTIL YOU THROW UP."
"EH? I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE THANKFUL OR NOT."
Ah, he finally smiled again.

"AH."
"IT'S OK."
I'LL HOLD SOME OF THAT TOO."
"SURE."
"SORRY, CAN YOU WAIT FOR A SE-COND?"
"OK."

I'm glad

"YOU FORGOT TO BUY SOMETHING?"
RUN RUN
"YEAH, I ALWAYS FORGET TO BUY IT."
UNCLE
"ALTHOUGH THEY ONLY HAVE THIS BUT FOR THE TIME BEING."
"HERE."
"YUP."
"...AN ASH-TRAY?"
"YOU SMOKE AT SCHOOL, BUT YOU NEVER DO AT MY PLACE RIGHT?"

"A LITTLE"
"A LITTLE"
"YOU RESERVED BECAUSE OF ME?"
"YOU'RE BLUSHING ARE YOU EMBARRASSED?"
"SHUT UP"
"LOCK THE DOOR, OK?"
uh
"HOW WEIRD"
open
It's true that it's weird, but

"HEY KAORU"
"ARE YOU OK?"
HE'S TOTALLY DRUNK
"LULU"
RUSTLE
"It's so hot"
I'm really happy.

"... SHE SAID THAT TO YOU?"
"YEAH."
"YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO ASK ME BACK, HUH."
"I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY IT."
"WHILE SHE HAS ANOTHER GUY SHE LIKES
WILL IT MATTER EVEN IF I TRY TO KEEP HER?"
"I DON'T GET IT."
"..."
"OH RIGHT
MASATO, WHAT HAPPENED TO KAMIJYOU-SAN?"

"IKEUCHI-KUN DOES NAKAJIMA-KUN HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?"
"HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE? YAY!"
"SHE'S SUCH A NICE AND CHEERFUL GIRL"
"EH?"
"I REFUSED"
"I HAVE TO WORK TOO SO I WON'T HAVE TIME FOR HER..."
"REALLY?
THEN JUST USE THE TIME YOU SPEND WITH ME TO BE WITH HER"

SINCE YOU'RE SO NICE "
"BUT IT'D BE SUCH A WASTE,
What are you talking about?
"IT SEEMS LIKE THE GIRLS WILL BE HAPPY IF THEY ARE ABLE TO GO OUT WITH YOU "
Stop it.
"IF SOMEONE APPROACHES YOU NEXT TIME GIVE IT A TRY "

"I'LL GIVE YOU MY SUPPORT."
Please stop
CLINK
I'VE drawn

touch
IT'S COMING DOWN
I'M GLAD
HM

"DON'T SLEEP HERE."
"NN."
"KAORU."
"KAORU."
"KAORU."
"..KAORU?"

I'M DOING THE EXACT SAME THING RIGHT NOW...
Although I realized that I like him,
I thought it would be good enough if I could be by his side.
If there's a place for me beside him,
then...
"EH?"

"I GOT A GIRLFRIEND"
"SHE ASKED ME TO THE MOVIES A COUPLE OF TIMES"
"AND ASKED ME TO GO OUT WITH HER."
"AH"
"I HAVE TO GET GOING SEE YOU"
"IS IT OK WITH NAKAJIMA-KUN?"
"YUI, ITS OK"
"YOU GUYS ARE SO CLOSE"
"YOU THINK SO TOO?"
Art that moments

Something broke inside me...
"MASATO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING "
"I SAID, I'M GOING OUT WITH MEGUMI NOW."

"YOUR EX-GIRLFRIEND."
"YOU'LL CHEER FOR ME RIGHT?"
Kaoru didn't smile.
"I'M SO HAPPY."
"REALLY?"
"YES I DO."
"MASATO, DO YOU LIKE MEGUMI?"

ナンナンよ
If I tell him
I like him,

will it end without him showing such an expression?
And
will we have a different relationship?
...NN.
...MASATO?
I beg you.

Hey, smile again...

silence
■ end ■

INFORMATION

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■COMMENT■

When seeing Emperor Schumacher being weak just like his name, it makes me really sad

PRODUCED

silence
サイレンス

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Azuma Takamya

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